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LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 18 October 1993 from the Representative of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Nizami Bakhmanov, addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, Mr. Mario Rafaelli, as received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this and the above-mentioned letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference

The adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 874 (1993) once again demonstrated the extreme concern of that authoritative international Organization at the crisis situation which has arisen in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic as a result of the escalation of aggression by Armenia.

I know that you sponsored further consideration of this question in the Security Council and, having studied the text of the resolution, I wish to share my thoughts with you in this regard.

Without entering into other aspects referred to in the document, I wanted to draw your attention to the paragraphs which express concern at the serious humanitarian emergency in connection with the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic as a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing, which is being carried out by means of the most barbaric, inhuman methods by the Armenian aggressors, whose actions rival in terms of cruelty the crimes committed by the Nazis during the Second World War. Today, on the eve of the third millennium, concentration camps are again being used, where approximately 3,000 men, women, children and elderly persons are being held in inhuman conditions, without any court decision or any charges, merely because they are Azerbaijanis. According to information from the International Committee of the Red Cross, approximately 600 of these unfortunate persons are being held in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

As a result of the aggression, 724 population centres in the Azerbaijani Republic have been occupied and the number of refugees and displaced persons is approaching 1 million, which, for a country with a population of 7 million, constitutes a real humanitarian disaster.

I wished to recall these facts in connection with paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 874 (1993), which refers to the need to assist the civilian population, refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in security and dignity.

Having once again studied the proposal by the Chairman of 28 September 1993, I have concluded that its provisions relating to the fate of the 50,000 Azerbaijanis from the Nagorny Karabakh region and the more than 60 population centres where they traditionally lived are not in keeping with the spirit and the letter of resolution 874 (1993).

In this connection, I hope that the drawing up of a new timetable on the basis of your proposal of 28 September 1993 will focus on discussion of a mechanism to provide military and political guarantees to the Azerbaijani Republic, which, after the liberation of the occupied territories, including the Nagorny Karabakh region, will have to provide, together with the monitoring mission, complete security to all returning refugees.

As you know, I always adhered to the concept of complete demilitarization, but if another concept was applied in the area of conflict, for example, that of a phased de-escalation of military confrontation, I believe that each of the communities of the Nagorny Karabakh region, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Security Council resolution, must, at each stage in the settlement, have equal military and political guarantees for its security and this concerns in particular the Azerbaijanis, whose legitimate interests have not at all been taken into account in your proposal.

On the basis of the foregoing, I express my readiness to participate in the drawing up of a new timetable on the basis of the Chairman's proposal of 28 September 1993.

(Signed) N. BAKHMANOV
Representative of the Azerbaijani
Community of the Nagorny Karabakh
region of the Azerbaijani Republic

Baku, 18 October 1993